a rigid scale mat mechanically biased and coupled to said scale cover, said mat comprising fiber filled polyester thermoset plastic held tightly against said scale cover so as to significantly increase load bearing capacity of said scale cover.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4, further comprising a mounting member formed of said plastic and rigidly mounting said mat to said scale cover.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein said mounting member comprises a projection extending from said mat.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6, wherein said cover has a recess formed therein and wherein said projection is positioned in said recess.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein said recess is formed as a hole extending through said cover and wherein said projection extends through said hole.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8, further comprising a mechanical fastener rigidly anchoring said mat to said cover.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 4, wherein said cover is formed with a recessed pocket and wherein said mat is fixed within said pocket.

11. (Amended) A platform scale assembly, comprising:

a sheet metal scale cover; and

a rigid foot-supporting mat mechanically biased and fixed to said scale cover and structurally rigidifying said scale cover, said mat comprising a polymeric fiber-filled plastic material held tightly against said scale cover so as to significantly increase load bearing capacity of said scale cover.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 11, wherein said plastic material comprises a polyester thermoset plastic material.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 11, wherein said mat is tightly abutted against said scale cover so as to substantially unite and laminate said mat and said cover.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, further comprising a mechanical fastener biased against said cover so as to pull said mat against said cover.

Respectfully submitted,

SUNBEAM PRODUCTS, INC.

By: _____

Lawrence J. Shurupoff, Reg. No. 30,219
2381 Executive Center Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Tel. No. (561) 912-5185
Fax No. (561) 912-4182

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